Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 XMB-02
TRSE-00 /036 W
----------084970 040245Z /65
R 031131Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7910

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1538

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, ET
SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES' EFFORTS TO BUY NEW BOEING 727'S

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1142

1. AT RECENT EAL DINNER FOR DEPARTING USCIT PILOT (REDUCING NUMBER OF USCIT PILOTS STILL WITH EAL TO FOUR), EAL GENERAL MANAGER BRIG GEN TAFESSE STATED THAT HE WOULD LEAD A FOUR MAN EAL DELEGATION TO THE US IN MID-APRIL TO CONCLUDE PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR TWO NEW BOEING 727'S. HE ADDED THAT EAL HAD ALREADY PAID $100,000 US "EARNEST" MONEY.

2. WHEN BRIG GEN TAFESSE MENTIONED THAT FORMER TWA EMPLOYEE STATIONED IN ETHIOPIA (DAN REID) WAS RECENTLY APPOINTED A V-P WITH LOCKHEED, EMBOFF SUGGESTED EAL TEAM TAKE OCCASION OF UPCOMING VISIT TO US TO ALSO DISCUSS WITH REID THEIR INTEREST IN ACQUIRING IN THE FUTURE ONE OR MORE 1011-500'S. BRIG GEN TAFESSE INDICATED HE WOULD DO SO IF TIME PERMITTED.

3. BRIG GEN TAFESSE AND TEAM MAY CALL UPON DEPT WHILE IN US. IF SO, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ALL APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE BE EXTENDED. EMBASSSY WILL ADVISE AS PLANS BECOME CLEARER.

4. DEPT MAY WISH TO ADVISE LOCKHEED'S DAN REID OF UPCOMING
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VISIT BY EAL TEAM.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY SUSPECTS THAT LARGE PART OF 30 PER CENT DOWN PAYMENT ON TWO 727'S MAY COME FROM US $7-8 MILLION INSURANCE PROCEEDS RECEIVED BY EAL FROM CRASH OF EAL CARGO PLANE IN ROME LAST FALL. EMBASSY HOPES FACT THAT EAL RECENTLY TOOK DELIVERY OF 4 NEW SMALL CESSNA AIRCRAFT FOR USE IN

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THEIR COMMERCIAL PILOT'S LICENSE COURSE IS GOOD OMEN FOR
POSITIVE COMPLETION THIS POTENTIAL EXPORT SALE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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